GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1012
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
DECLINE IN WATER TABLE
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of drinking water has been adversely affected due to declining water table in some parts of the country in the past few years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Governments; and

(c) the achievements made so far in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during for the year 1982-2001 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some districts of various States of the country affecting the availability of drinking water. The names of the States/districts having pockets with fall in water level in the last twenty years (1982-2001) are given in the Annexure.

(b)&(c)Provision of drinking water is a State subject and various schemes for drinking water supply facilities are implemented by the State Government from their own resources. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments can spend upto 5% of the fund released under the ARWSP exclusively on sustainability measures like rain water harvesting, water recharge etc. This is expected to improve ground water table. The Central Government has also sanctioned Sector Reforms Pilot Projects on Rural Water Supply in 67 districts of the country aiming at sustainability of sources and system in rural drinking water sector.

In addition, the CGWB has also initiated following measures to check the declining water table in the country:-

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re- circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(vi) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

ANNEXURE

(REFERENCE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1012 DATED 24.02.2003)

Name of the Districts (in parts) showing fall of Water Level of More than 4 m. in Last Twenty Years (1982-2001) (Pre-monsoon Period)

Sl. No	States	Fall in Water Level (@ more than 20 cm per year)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Anantpur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool,

		Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Warangal Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam,
2.	Assam	Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi-Anglong, Morigaon
3.	Bihar	Gaya
4.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar, Bilaspur, Champa, Dantewada, Durg, Janjgir, Kanker, Raigarh
5.	Delhi	South West, South, New Delhi, North West, West, Central,
6.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dangs, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar, Valsad
7.	Haryana	Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panchkula, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Yamunagar
8.	Jharkhand	Giridih, Lohardaga, Palamu
9.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belary, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Chamarajanagara, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Kolar, Koppala, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttar Kannada
10.	Kerala	Ernakulam, Idukki, Kannur, Kasaragod, Kollam, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani, Betul, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Gwalior, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Katni, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Nimach, Panna, Raisen, Ratlam, Rajgarh, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Shajapur, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Vidisha
12.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nasik, Parbhani, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Sholapur, Thane, Wardha, Yavatmal
13.	Orissa	Angul, Balasore, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbanj, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nowrangpur, Phulbani, Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Suvarnpur
14.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur
15.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali Rajsamand, Sirohi, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Udaipur
16.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharampuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Kanya Kumari, Madras, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Tanjavur, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur Theni, Tiruvannamalai, Tuticorin
17.	Tripura	South Tripura, West Tripura
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Badaun, Banda, Ballia, Barabanki, Bareilly, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Fetehpur, Ghaziabad, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lakhimur, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pratapgarh, Raebareili, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Unnao
19.	West Bengal	Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Kochbihar, Purulia